

## THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 15 November 2023

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2023 at Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.

**Present** - Sharon Morris (Planning, Heritage & Conservation), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Mary Tollow (Treasurer and Membership), Anna Koor (Secretary), Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Eileen Measey (Environment), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Cllr Mark Jeffery, Cllr Ian Holder, Cllr Chris Attwell.

### 1 Apologies - None

**2 Declarations of Interest** – All were reminded to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters of that nature arise during the course of FOOPA business.

### 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 18 October 2023 were circulated to the Committee by email and agreed by the Chair with no further amendments.

### 4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

**Recycling Bins** – Following Sharon's and/or Cllr Chris's intervention, these have been moved and are now outside the enclosure on Victoria Avenue and Pier Road.

**Pembroke Park Hedge** – Eileen has spoken with the contractor who carries out this work for the Navy. They have now put mulch into the topsoil in order to better prepare the ground for a second attempt to replant a new hedge.

### 5 Correspondence and Communications

**Neighbourhood Forum** – Anna confirmed that the Old Portsmouth & Gunwharf Quays Neighbourhood Forum will take place at David Russell Theatre at PGS on 7 February 2024. Cllr Chris said he has approached the new Police Sargent for St Thomas ward to give a talk. He will also ask Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson as Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation and an officer from the Transport team, Felicity Tidbury to attend and give residents an update on PCC's transport and parking strategy.

**6 Treasurer's Report** – At 31 October 2023 there was £4261.84 in the current account and £5023.97 in the savings account. The annual Policy Bee £88.66 insurance premium needs to be paid this month.

**7 Social Programme** – A FOOPA member came forward offering to organize a Xmas Lunch at Queen's Hotel, however there are no dates available at the beginning of December. Mary and Gail sent out an email to all members seeking interest in a lunch either in December or January 2024. There were 30 responses and a small majority favoured an event in January. Gail and Mary will research venues further. Gail has been in touch with an actor at Groundlings Theatre and they organise group tours with tea. She will pursue this for a potential tour in February 2024.

**8 Membership Report** – There are still currently 174 households and 255 members.

### 9 Traffic

**Parking Strategy Consultation** – Mike submitted a substantial report in response, with a graph demonstrating the sharp rate of increase in motor vehicle numbers on the Island. There are campaigns to increase other modes of transport but these are evidently not robust enough. In a survey conducted to assess the impact of Voi Scooters use, results indicated users were previously paying bus passengers rather than motorists, which suggests the impact on vehicle congestion in the city is limited. PCC might want to look at differential street parking charges based on vehicle size, a policy that a few other Councils have adopted.

**Southern Water fiasco** – Mike to prepare a report for Cllr Judith Smythe, Chair of PCC's Transport Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel. It is evident that Southern Water is riding roughshod over residents in terms of keeping them fully informed of the disruption, in the lack of signage, and lack of care for pedestrian and cyclist safety and diversions.

**Proposed Road Improvements: High Street/Broad Street** – A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO298/2023) was published to advertise the raised tables at Broad Street and Peacock Lane, and the High Street Pedestrian Crossing, however there were errors in the notice wording. Anna pointed this out to the TRO team,

commenting that the wording implies there will be a raised table across High Street ([TROteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:TROteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)). PCC officer Chi Sharpe responded saying that speeding data does not support a raised table across High Street. This is despite Mike's repeated efforts to point out that the data used by PCC is flawed, coupled with his analysis of Community Speedwatch data presented to PCC, which proves that speeding is a serious problem. He asked Cllr Chris to help arrange a meeting with PCC Transport and Road Safety officers Felicity Tidbury and Michelle Love, as well as Traffic & Transportation Cabinet Member, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson. It was agreed that, because committee members have different views regarding all the aspects of the schemes, comments should be submitted individually rather than as the FOOPA Committee.

**E-Scooter Rack, St Nicholas Street** – A number of residents contacted FOOPA, concerned about this proposal. Councillors acknowledge the strength of feeling from residents regarding the very poor siting of this scooter rack, for many reasons. Councillors will be meeting with those responsible next week with the aim of ensuring this proposal is shelved. In the meantime, Councillors urge residents to send views to the team.

## **10 Planning**

**Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club** – Sharon received a reply from PCC and will forward this to Cllr Chris. The application for conversion to 3 flats was recently and quite suddenly approved, despite a time lapse of 2 years (November 2021) since the decision meeting, no record of the original official Decision Notice, and no work being carried out to the property in the intervening time period. The reply from PCC suggests that the original permission was hampered by the nitrate neutrality issue.

**39 High Street** – In addition to the license application (23/03153/LAPREM 39), there is a planning application in respect of the proposed café/bar/restaurant. This is a variation to the existing permission to enable use as a restaurant with opening hours, 0800 to 2200.

**105/106 High Street** – Following the partial collapse of lintel and brickwork, an application has been submitted to replace the front windows and apply rendering to the full elevation.

**Tesco, St George's Road** – Opened this morning with our MP in attendance.

**11 Heritage & Conservation** – The horse memorial is progressing. Two new interpretation panels have been erected at the new Long Curtain seafront section.

**12 Environment** – Eileen is meeting PCC's Doug Gray (Parks Operations Manager) and Hannah Thompson (Countryside Officer) on Friday, 10.30. She is considering if it is feasible for FOOPA to take on responsibility of the bigger bed at Nelson's Statue. Regarding planting of plugs on the grass banks, which were not successful last year, Eileen will look at randomly planting some crocus bulbs. The five trees at the Hotwalls have been removed. Eileen was told that they were specially bred by Hilliers and had a limited life expectancy, which had been reached. The new build-out at Square Tower offers new planting potential in raised beds. She continues researching community orchard prospects and the seagrass project at the moat.

**13 Website** – Nothing new to report. Any items, please pass on to Gail to promote.

**14 Ward Councillor Reports** – This has been covered under the headings above. It is understood that the Southern Water repairs at Penny Street will be completed on 22 December 2023.

**15 Committee Admin** – None.

**16 AOB** – None.

**17 Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 13 December 2023, 7.30pm, Pembroke Gardens Bowls Club.